

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are present in this application. Claims 1 and 7 are independent.

Double Patenting

Claims 1 and 7 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent 6,617,898. Accordingly, Applicants have included a terminal disclaimer with this Reply.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Claims

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-6 are allowable.

Conclusion

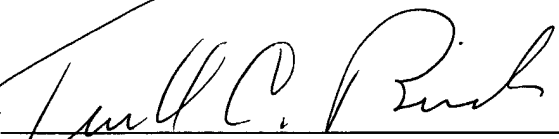
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert W. Downs (Reg. No. 48,222) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By



Terrell C. Birch, #19,382

^{RWD}
TCB/RWD/fjl
2936-0179P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s)